

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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INFO AMCONGEN ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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DEPT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OAU PFOR ARAB LEAGUE

SUBJECT: OAU DRAFT DECLARATION AND PROGRAM OF ACTION ON AFRO-

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ARAB COOPERATION

REF: ADDIS 8217

1. EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED COPY OF DRAFT DECLARATION AND PROGRAM OF ACTION ON AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION PREPARED BY THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY SECRETARIAT FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE AFRO-ARAB CONFERENCE NOW MEETING IN CAIRO. A BRIEF SUMMARY OF SALIENT POINTS FOLLOWS.

2. THE PREAMBLE OF THE DRAFT TAKES COGNIZANCE OF THE MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS AND DECISIONS PREVIOUSLY MADE BY OAU AND THE ARAB LEAGUE WHICH CALL FOR CLOSER COOPERATION BETWEEN AFRICAN AND ARAB STATES. IT POINTS OUT THAT SUCH COOPERATION IS IN KEEPING WITH THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND PROVISIONS SET DOWN BY PREVIOUS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES. FINALLY IT STATES THAT THE PURPOSE OF THIS DECLARATION AND PROGRAM OF ACTION IS TO DEFINE "THE PRINCIPLES AND FRAMEWORK OF COLLECTIVE OR INDIVIDUAL ACTION BY AFRICAN AND ARAB COUNTRIES FOR AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION".

3. THE PRINCIPLES SECTION CALLS FOR ADHERENCE TO THE FOLLOWING: (A) RESPECT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE OF STATES, (B) SOVEREIGN EQUALITY OF STATES, (C) PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OF PEOPLES OVER THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES, (D) NON-AGGRESSION, (E) NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, (F) SAFEGUARD OF ADVANTAGES AND MUTUAL INTERESTS ON THE BASIS OF RECIPROCITY AND EQUALITY, (G) SPIRIT OF TOLERANCE AND (H) PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES.

4. THE PROGRAM OF ACTION SECTION IS DIVIDED INTO FOUR SUB-SECTIONS: POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC COOPERATION, ECONOMIC COOPERATION, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL COOPERATION AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION.

A. THE POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC SUB-SECTION REAFFIRMS ADHERENCE TO THE POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT; CONDEMNS COLONIALISM, APARTHEID, ZIONISM AND ALL OTHER FORMS OF RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATION; REITERATES SUPPORT FOR AFRICAN AND ARAB NATIONAL CAUSES; AND CALLS FOR COORDINATION OF ACTION AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL. IT ALSO DECLARES THAT THE OAU AND THE ARAB LEAGUE WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE TOTAL POLITICAL, DIPLOMATIC, MATERIAL AND MORAL SUPPORT TO AFRICAN AND ARAB NATIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WHICH BOTH PARTIES RECOGNIZE.

B. THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION SUB-SECTION PROPOSES AN EXPANSION AND INTENSIFICATION OF COOPERATION IN VARIOUS ECONOMIC AREAS. WITH RESPECT TO TRADE THE DECLARATION CALLS FOR ELIMINATION OF ALL TARIFF AND NON-TARIFF BARRIERS IMPEDING DIRECT AFRO-ARAB TRADE, SUPPLY (AS FAR AS POSSIBLE) THEIR RESPECTIVE MARKETS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF COLLABORATION AMONG AFRICAN AND ARAB FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR FINANCING EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

IN THE MINING AND INDUSTRY AREAS THE DECLARATION ADVOCATES A SYSTEMATIC SURVEY OF NATURAL RESOURCES, THEIR INCREASED EXPLOITATION (INCLUDING NEW PROCESSING INDUSTRIES) AND AGREEMENT ON ADEQUATE FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION TO REALIZE PROJECTS BY CREATING JOINT ENTERPRISES AND GRANTING LOANS. WITH RESPECT TO AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY THE DECLARATION ADVOCATES INCREASED PRODUCTION/PROCESSING OF FOOD PRODUCTS THROUGH DIRECT INVESTMENT, JOINT VENTURES AND OTHER FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL MODALITIES. IT ALSO CALLS FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND RESEARCH RESULTS. REGARDING ENERGY AND WATER RESOURCES THE DECLARATION CALLS FOR ASSUMPTION OF EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF ALL ENERGY RESOURCES, PROMOTION OF INVESTMENT IN EXPLORATION, EXPLOITATION, ETC., OF PETROLEUM, EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON IMPROVING CLIMATIC AND DESERT CONDITIONS, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF HYDROELECTRIC AND OTHER FORMS OF ENERGY AND INTENSIFICATION OF USE OF OTHER SOURCES OF ENERGY SUCH AS SOLAR, THERMAL, ETC. IN THE FIELDS OF TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS THE DECLARATION URGES THE ACCELERATION OF DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN INFRASTRUCTURE, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LINKS BETWEEN NATIONAL ROAD, RAIL AND AIRLINE SYSTEMS, AND COOPERATION IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUB-REGIONAL AND CONTINENTAL PROJECTS. WITH RESPECT TO FINANCIAL COOPERATION THE DECLARATION STATES THAT ALL NECESSARY MEASURES SHOULD BE TAKEN TO PROMOTE EFFECTIVE FINANCIAL COOPERATION ON TERMS THAT WOULD PROVIDE SECURITY AND GUARANTEES (SIC). STEPS TO FACILITATE PREFERENTIAL ACCESS OF AFRICAN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO THE ARAB CAPITAL MARKET SHOULD BE TAKEN AND THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND THE ARAB BANK FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA SHOULD COORDINATE THEIR INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES AND ENGAGE IN THE JOINT FINANCING OF MULTINATIONAL AFRICAN PROJECTS. STUDIES BY RELEVANT INSTITUTIONS REGARDING THE CREATION OF AN AFRO-ARAB INVESTMENT FUND, AN AFRO-ARAB LOAN GUARANTEE FUND AND AN AFRO-ARAB INVESTMENT CODE SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN.

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C. THE CULTURAL AND SOCIAL COOPERATION SUB-SECTION AND THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION SUB-SECTION CONTAIN NOTHING OF PARTICULAR INTEREST.

D. THE INSTITUTIONS SUB-SECTION CALLS FOR EACH ORGANIZATION (OAU AND ARAB LEAGUE) TO ESTABLISH LIAISON OFFICES IN THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE OTHER, TO GRANT EACH OTHER OBSERVER STATUS AT MEETINGS WHERE MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST ARE TO BE DISCUSSED, TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARIES-GENERAL TO ENTER INTO COOPERATION AGREEMENTS AND TO ESTABLISH A JOINT PERMANENT COMMISSION, AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, TO REVIEW AND ENSURE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION AND TO EXPLORE NEW HORIZONS OF COOPERATION.

5. COMMENT: THE DRAFT DECLARATION IS NOTEWORTHY FOR ITS AMBITIOUS EXPECTATIONS OF ARAB FINANCING FOR AFRICAN PROJECTS. ALTHOUGH THE DOCUMENT DOES NOT PUT THE ISSUE THAT BALDLY, BUT

RATHER TALKS ABOUT JOINT VENTURES IN BOTH REGIONS, THERE IS NO
MISTAKING THAT ONLY THE ARAB SIDE HAS THE REQUISITE FINANCIAL
RESOURCES TO REALIZE THE PROGRAM OF ACTION. THE DRAFT
DECLARATION IS ALSO LESS THAN TACTFUL BY ALWAYS PLACING AFRICA
FIRST WHENEVER BOTH AFRICA AND ARAB ARE USED IN CONJUNCTION TO
DISCUSS AN ACTIVITY OR AN INSTITUTION. ON THE FACE OF IT ALL
THE ARABS GET OUT OF THIS DECLARATION IS ONE PASSING REFERENCE
TO THE EVILS OF ZIONISM AND THE PROMISE OF CLOSE COOPERATION IN
INTERNATIONAL FORA ON ISSUES OF COMMON INTEREST.
HUMMEL

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED BAGHDAD

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